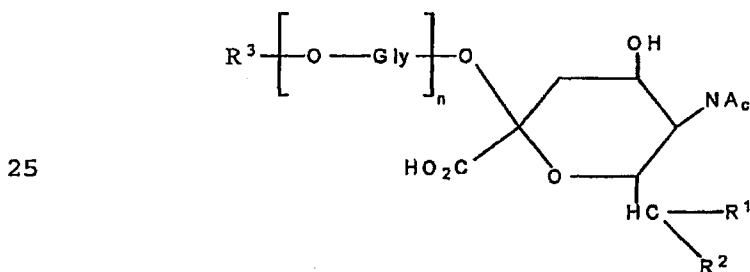


CLAIMS

1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide acid a pendant moiety linked at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups,
 5 vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups orthopyridyl disulphide groups.
2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the
 10 moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligoaxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a
 15 peptide linkage.
5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.
6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of
 20 sialic acid units
7. A compound which the compound has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

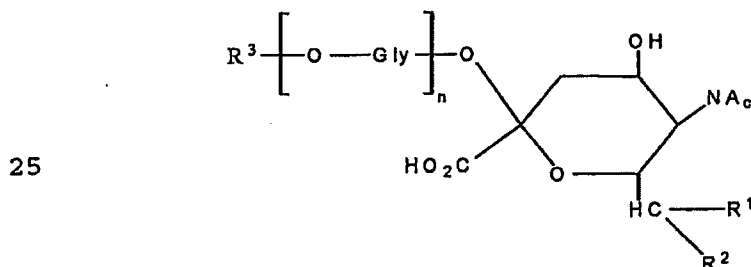
- i) R^1 is H or $-\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$, R^2 is OH and R^3 is either
 30 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$ in which R^4 and R^5 together represent
 $=\text{N}-\text{NR}^6$ or R^4 is H and R^5 is $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004):
original claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 22 amended; remaining claims unchanged; (4 pages)]

CLAIMS

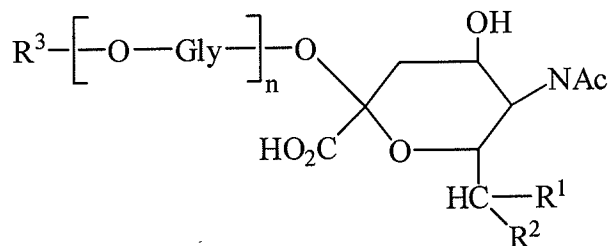
1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide having a pendant moiety linked to at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups,
5 vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups and orthopyridyl disulphide groups.
2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the
10 moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligooxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a
15 peptide linkage.
5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.
6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of
20 sialic acid units.
7. A compound according to claim 1 which has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

- i) R¹ is H or -CHOHCH₂OH, R² is OH and R³ is either
30 -CH₂CHR⁴R⁵ or -CH(CH₂OH)CHR⁴R⁵ in which R⁴ and R⁵ together represent =N-NR⁶ or R⁴ is H and R⁵ is -NR⁶R⁷ in which R⁶ is an organic group

7. (currently amended): ~~[[A]] The compound according to~~ of claim 1 which has the formula



~~in which one of the following groups of definitions apply wherein:~~

~~[[i]] (a)~~ R^1 is H or $-\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$, ~~and~~ R^2 is OH , ~~[[and]]~~

R^3 is ~~[[either]]~~ $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$ ~~in which~~ wherein R^4 and R^5 together represent $=\text{N}-\text{NR}^6$ or R^4 is H and R^5 is $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R^7 is H, or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group; or

~~[[ii]] (b)~~ R^1 and R^2 together represent $=\text{N}-\text{NR}^6$ $=\text{N}-\text{NHR}^6$ or R^1 is H and R^2 is $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R^7 is H or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group;

~~[[Gly-O]]~~ O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

~~n is 0 or more~~ 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to~~ of claim 7 in which ~~each Gly~~ each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (currently amended): A ~~compound comprising a~~ polysialylated protein with at least one ~~[[free]]~~ cysteine unit ~~[[and,]]~~ linked through a thioester bond to ~~the side chain of the cysteine unit, with a polysialic acid, through a moiety joined at one or each~~ at least one terminal units of the unit of a polysialic acid.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another, and having reducing and non-reducing terminal units and said polysaccharides having a pendant moiety linked to ~~at least one~~ the reducing terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which pendant moiety includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide, ~~vinylsulphone~~ vinyl sulfone, N-iodoacetamide and orthopyridyl ~~disulphide~~ disulfide.

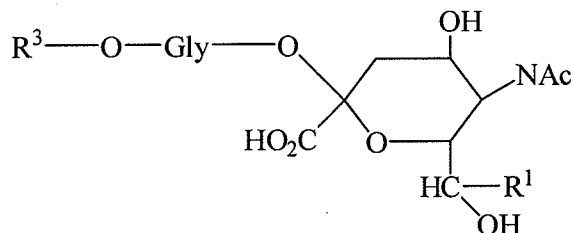
2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the pendant moiety further comprises alkylene and/or arylene and/or an oxalkylene and/or oligooxa-alkylene and/or oligopeptide.

5. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which has the formula



wherein:

[(a)] R^1 is H or $-\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$, and R^2 is $-\text{OH}$,